

Application No. 10/053298
Page 2

Amendment
Attorney Docket No. S63.2B-10429-US01

Amendments To The Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A catheter comprising:
a central shaft;
at least one guide wire movably positioned adjacent to the central shaft;
at least one stent disposed about a distal portion of the at least one guide wire, having an unexpanded state and an expanded state;
a removable sheath having a wall portion, the removable sheath being disposed about the at least one stent in the unexpanded state, the removable sheath constructed and arranged to retain the at least one stent in the unexpanded state, the removable sheath being retractable to allow the at least one stent to expand from the unexpanded state to the expanded state, the sheath having a distal end, the distal end of the sheath wall portion having at least one opening, the at least one guide wire passing through the at least one opening -the at least one opening ~~constructed and arranged to allow passage of the at least one guide wire and the at least one stent therethrough;~~
and a tip overlapping the distal end of said sheath for holding said sheath together.
2. (Original) The catheter of claim 1 wherein the at least one stent is bifurcated.
3. (Currently amended) The sheath catheter of claim 1 wherein the at least one opening extends from a predetermined position on the retractable sheath to the distal end of the said sheath.
4. (Currently amended) The sheath catheter of claim 1 wherein the at least one opening is selected from the group consisting of a slit, zipper, groove, hole and any combination thereof.
5. (Currently amended) The sheath catheter of claim 1 wherein the at least one opening extends to said distal end of said retractable sheath by a groove that is formed by the at least one guide wire upon retraction of said retractable sheath.
6. (Currently amended) The sheath catheter of claim 1 wherein said distal tip is connected to said central shaft, at least a portion of the distal tip overlapping the distal end of the retractable sheath prior to retraction of the retractable sheath.
7. (Currently amended) A stent delivery catheter comprising:
a central shaft;

Application No. 10/053298
Page 3

Amendment
Attorney Docket No. S63.2B-10429-US01

a distal tip, the distal tip extending distally from the central shaft, the distal tip having a proximal ridge, the proximal ridge having a diameter larger than the central shaft;

at least one guide wire, at least one stent disposed about at least a portion of the at least one guide wire, the at least one guide wire being movable relative to the central shaft;

a retractable sheath disposed about the central shaft and the at least one guide wire, the retractable sheath having a distal edge, the distal edge being removably engaged to the distal tip, the proximal ridge of the distal tip overlapping the distal edge of the retractable sheath, the retractable sheath being proximally retractable from the distal tip;

a wall portion of the retractable sheath having at least one opening, the at least one opening extending from a predetermined position on the retractable sheath to the distal end of the sheath.

8. (Cancelled) The catheter of claim 7 wherein the retractable sheath further comprises at least one opening, the at least one opening comprising a predetermined area of the retractable sheath proximal to the distal edge.

9. (Original) The catheter of claim 7 wherein the retractable sheath further comprises a weakened portion, the weakened portion comprising a predetermined area of the retractable sheath proximal to the distal edge.

10. (Original) The catheter of claim 8 wherein the at least one opening extends to said distal edge of said sheath by a slit.

11. (Original) The catheter of claim 8 wherein the at least one opening extends to said distal edge of said sheath by a groove.

12. (Original) The catheter of claim 8 wherein the at least one opening extends to said distal edge of said sheath by a zipper.

13. (New) A catheter comprising:

a central shaft;

a first guide wire movably positioned within the central shaft;

a stent disposed about a distal portion of the central shaft, the stent having an unexpanded state and an expanded state;

a removable sheath having a wall portion, the removable sheath being disposed about the stent in the unexpanded state, the removable sheath constructed and arranged to retain the stent in

Application No. 10/053298
Page 4

Amendment
Attorney Docket No. S63.2B-10429-US01

the unexpanded state, the removable sheath being retractable to allow the stent to expand from the unexpanded state to the expanded state, the wall portion having an opening therethrough; a second guide wire movably positioned adjacent to the central shaft, the second guide wire passing through the opening of the wall portion of the sheath; and a tip overlapping a distal end of said sheath.

14. (New) The catheter of claim 13, wherein the stent further comprises a plurality of cells, and the second guide wire passes through a cell.

15. (New) The catheter of claim 14, wherein the stent is bifurcated.

16. (New) The catheter of claim 13, wherein the opening extends from a predetermined position on the retractable sheath to a distal end of the said sheath.

17. (New) The catheter of claim 13, wherein the opening is selected from a group consisting of a slit, zipper, groove, hole and any combination thereof.

18. (New) The catheter of claim 13, wherein the opening extends to a distal end of said retractable sheath by a groove that is formed by the second guide wire upon retraction of said retractable sheath.

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- BLACK BORDERS**
- IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- OTHER: _____**

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.